

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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ALL NATO CAPITALS 3197

USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 3678

E.O. 11652: GDS, 12-31-79

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: BURDEN SHARING: AUGUST 1 NAC DISCUSSION

REF: USNATO 3652; USNATO 3651

QUOTED BELOW IS FULL TEXT OF UK COMMENTS AT AUGUST 1 NAC DISCUSSION ON A MULTILATERAL PROGRAM TO COMPENSATE THE US FOR THE STATIONING OF THEIR FORCES IN EUROPE. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST IS THE LAST SENTENCE OF PARAGRAPH 3 REGARDING THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SITUATION OF OTHER ALLIANCE MEMBERS WHO STATION FORCES OUTSIDE THEIR NATIONAL TERRITORIES.

BEGIN TEXT: MR. SECRETARY GERERAL, I WOULD OPEN MY COMMENTS BY ECHOING THE CONCLUDING REMARKS OF THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS ISSUE. IT IS, WE AGREE, A MAJOR POLITICAL QUESTION-AND, FURTHER, WE FOR OUR PART THINK THERE IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT TIME ELEMENT INVOLVED. THUS WE CONFIDENTIAL

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SEE EVERY ADVANTAGE IN THE ALLIANCE PRESSING AHEAD QUICKLY WITH ITS WORK ON THIS.

2. YOU YOURSELF, MR. CHAIRMAN, I THINK REFERRED IN YOUR

OPENING REMARKS TO THE 1957 COUNCIL RESOLUTION. OUR VIEW IS THAT, WHETHER OR NOT WE FOLLOW THE EXACT PROCEDURE OF C-M(57)112, THE RESOLUTION IS CERTAINLY USEFUL IN INDICATING THE KIND OF CONSIDERATIONS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT AND CONDITIONS TO BE MET FOR A COUNTRY TO BE ENTITLED TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM ITS PARTNERS IN THE ALLIANCE. THE RESOLUTION ITSELF CALLS FOR "ALL APPROPRIATE EXPLANATIONS TO JUSTIFY THAT THERE ARE GOOD GROUNDS FOR THE REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE"- AND THIS APPROACH FITS IN WELL WITH THE SUGGESTIONS FROM CERTAIN MINISTERS AT THE DPC MEETING ON 7 JUNE THAT THE EXAMINATION SHOULD BE SEEN IN A WIDE PERSPECTIVE AND CONSIDERED IN A MULTILATERAL FOCUS. WE THUS AGREE THAT AT LEAST THE FACT-FINDING STAGE SHOULD BE CONDUCTED ON THE WIDEST POSSIBLE BASIS TO INCLUDE ALL COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY THE PROBLEM. I ALSO NOTED PARTICULARLY THE GERMAN DEFENSE MINISTER'S REMARKS AT THE DPC MEETING (DPC-VR(73)10 PART I PP 32-33) TO THE EFFECT THAT BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEMS ARE ONLY FOR DEFENSE MINISTERS TO SOLVE WHEN DEFICITS IN THAT BALANCE ARE CAUSED BY EXPENDITURE IN THE FIELD OF DEFENSE-THAT IS TO SAY, WE MUST SET OVERSEAS SPENDING ON DEFENSE ACCOUNT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE OVERALL BALANCE OF PAYMENTS POSITION. THE SAME BROAD PERSPECTIVE MUST ALSO BE ADOPTED FOR THE OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH ARE TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE SAME TIME.

3. WE BELIEVE THEREFORE THAT THE FACT-FINDING STAGE WHICH IS THE ESSENTIAL FIRST STEP AND WHICH IS IN OUR VIEW ALL WE CAN USEFULLY DETERMINE AT PRESENT, SHOULD IDENTIFY FOR THE ALLIANCE, AT LEAST IN BROAD TERMS, THE TOTAL US BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SITUATION; WITHIN THIS, THE US BALANCE VIS-A-VIS NATO EUROPE; AND WITHIN THIS AGAIN, SUCCESSIVELY, THE BALANCE WITH EUROPE ON MILITARY ACCOUNT GENERALLY, AND FINALLY THE BALANCE ON ACCOUNT OF FORCES STATIONED IN EUROPE FOR NATO. IN PARALLEL, WE SHALL NEED, IN ORDER TO SET THE SCENE ON A PROPER ALLIANCE BASIS, THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SITUATION RESULTING FROM THE STATIONING OF FORCES OUTSIDE NATIONAL TERRITORY BY THE OTHER ALLIANCE MEMBERS WHO DO THIS.
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4. I CONCLUDE, MR. CHAIRMAN, BY REPEATING MY OPENING SENTIMENTS TO THE EFFECT THAT WE CONSIDER THIS AN IMPORTANT STUDY ON WHICH WE SHOULD PRESS AHEAD WITH ALL SPEED WITH A VIEW TO AN EARLY RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM. END TEXT.
RUMSFELD

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